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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE
ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO
COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Fifth session
Paris, 6-17 June 1994
Agenda item 2

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Negotiating text of the regional implementation annex for Europe

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourth session in Geneva, the INCD requested the Secretariat to draft for its fifth session in Paris the negotiating text of various regional implementation annexes. Attached for the Committee's consideration is the text of a regional implementation annex for Europe based on document A/AC.241/CRP.10, submitted by Greece on behalf of three northern Mediterranean countries.

2. This document is entitled "Regional implementation annex for Europe" for reasons of consistency with the other regional implementation annexes.

Annex

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR EUROPE

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the practical and effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean subregion of Europe in light of the particular conditions of that subregion.

Article 2

Particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean subregion

The particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean subregion referred to in Article 1 include:

(a) Semi-arid climatic conditions affecting large areas, seasonal droughts, very high rainfall variability and sudden and high intensity rainfall;

(b) Poor and highly erodible soils, prone to develop surface crusts;

(c) Uneven relief with steep slopes and very diversified landscapes;

(d) Extensive forest coverage losses due to frequent wildfires;

(e) Crisis conditions in traditional agriculture with associated land abandonment and deterioration of soil and water conservation structures;

(f) Unsustainable exploitation of water resources leading to serious environmental damage, including exhaustion, chemical pollution and salinization of aquifers;

(g) Concentration of economic activity in coastal areas as a result of growth of urbanization, industrial activities, tourism and irrigated agriculture.

Article 3

Strategic planning framework for sustainable development

1. National action programmes shall be a central and integral part of the strategic planning framework for sustainable development of the affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean.

2. A consultative and participatory process, involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations, shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation.

Article 4

Obligation to prepare a national action programme and timetable

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9, affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean subregion shall prepare national action programmes and, as appropriate, subregional or joint action programmes. The preparation of such programmes shall be finalized as soon as practicable.

Article 5

Preparation and implementation of national action programmes

In preparing and implementing national action programmes in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, each affected country Party of the subregion shall, as appropriate:

(a) Designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation, coordination and implementation of its programme;

(b) Involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the programme through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations;

(c) Survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action;

(d) Evaluate, with the participation of affected communities, past and current programmes in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in the action programme;

(e) Prepare technical and financial programmes based on the information gained through the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d);

(f) Develop and utilize procedures and bench-marks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme.

Article 6

Content of national action programmes

Affected country Parties of the subregion may include, in their national action programmes, measures in the following areas:

(a) Legislative, institutional and administrative measures;

(b) Measures relating to land use patterns, management of water resources, soil conservation, forestry, agricultural activities and pasture and range management;

(c) Management and conservation of wildlife and other forms of biological diversity;

(d) Protection against forest fires;

(e) Promotion of alternative livelihoods; and

(f) Research, training and public awareness.

Article 7

Subregional and joint action programmes

1. Affected country Parties of the subregion may, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, prepare and implement a subregional action programme in order to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes. Selected country Parties of the subregion, may similarly agree to prepare a joint action programme among them.

2. The provisions of Articles 5 and 6 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the preparation and implementation of subregional and joint action programmes. In addition, such programmes may include the conduct of research and development activities concerning selected ecosystems in affected areas.

3. In preparing and implementing subregional or joint action programmes, affected country Parties of the subregion shall, as appropriate:

(a) Identify, in cooperation with national institutions, national objectives related to desertification which can better be met by such programmes, as well as relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them;

(b) Evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant subregional and national institutions; and

(c) Assess existing programmes relating to desertification among Parties of the subregion and their relationship with national action programmes.

Article 8

Coordination of subregional and joint action programmes

Affected country Parties preparing a subregional or joint action programme may establish a coordination committee composed of representatives of each affected Party concerned to review progress in combating desertification, harmonize national action programmes, make recommendations in the various stages of preparation and implementation of the subregional or joint action programme, and act as a focal point for the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation in accordance with Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention.

Article 9

Coordination with other subregions and regions

Subregional and joint action programmes in the northern Mediterranean subregion may be prepared and implemented in collaboration with those of other subregions or regions, particularly the action programmes in the subregion of northern Africa.